Version with markings to show changes made

6. (Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein producing the complex includes derivatizing a reduced polysaccharide by [carboxyalkyation] carboxyalkylation.

26. (Amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim 24, wherein the amount of derivatization of the reduced dextran is at least about 750 micromole of carboxyl groups per gram of polysaccharide [, wherein said composition has reduced toxicity in a mammal relative to a composition with a lower amount of derivatization].

27. (Amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim 26, wherein the level of derivatization of the reduced dextran is at least about 900 micromole of carboxyl groups per gram of polysaccharide [, wherein said composition has reduced toxicity in a mammal relative to a composition with a lower amount of derivatization].

28. (Amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim 27, wherein the amount of derivatization of the reduced dextran is at least about 1,100 micromole of carboxyl groups per gram of polysaccharide [, wherein said composition has reduced toxicity relative to composition with a lower amount of derivatization].

29. (Amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim [24] 26, wherein the amount of derivatization of the reduced dextran is less than about [1300] 1500 micromole of carboxyl groups per gram of polysaccharide, wherein said complex remains a colloidal suspension without substantial aggregation.

35. (Amended) An improved method of administering to a mammalian subject a polysaccharide, [in a manner that] the improvement utilizing a composition [provides reduced toxicity] producing decreased edematous response in comparison with utilizing unmodified polysaccharide and otherwise identically administered, wherein the improvement comprises utilizing for administration a derivatized reduced polysaccharide [in formulation of the] composition, and in derivatizing the polysaccharide, providing an extent of derivatization sufficient to produce decreased edematous response of the derivatized composition.

36. (Amended) An improved method of administering to a mammalian subject a polysaccharide, [composition of the type] wherein the composition includes dextran, [in a manner that] the method utilizing a composition [provides reduced toxicity] producing decreased edematous response in comparison with utilizing unmodifed dextran otherwise identically administered, wherein the improvement comprises utilizing for administration carboxymethylated reduced dextran in lieu of dextran [in the formulation], and in carboxymethylating the dextran, providing an extent of carboxymethylation sufficient to produce decreased edematous response of the derived composition.

39. (Amended) A method according to claim [38] 36, further comprising [after the carboxylating step,] sterilizing the [carboxymethylated reduced dextran formulation] composition by autoclaving.

40. (Amended) A method according to claim 39, [further comprising administering the sterilized carboxymethylated reduced dextran formulation to a] wherein the subject is in need of a plasma extender.

41. (Amended) A method according to claim [38] 36, further comprising [after the carboxymethylation step,] providing a solution of an iron salt to form a carboxymethylated reduced dextran iron colloid formulation [having] producing decreased [toxicity] edematous response.

42. (Amended) A method according to claim 41, further comprising [after the step of providing a solution of an iron salt,] sterilizing the carboxymethylated reduced dextran iron formulation by autoclaving.

43. (Amended) A method according to claim [38] 42, wherein the [pharmacological use comprises administering the formulation to a] subject is in need of iron.

45. (Amended) A method according to claim 41 of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the type including a polysaccharide-derived iron oxide MRI contrast agent, the improvement producing decreased edematous response of a subject in comparison with an unmodified polysaccharide contrast agent, wherein the improvement [pharmacological use] comprises administering to [a] the

subject an effective dose of the [formulation] agent to obtain enhanced magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of a tissue or organ.

46. (Amended) A method of magnetic resonance imaging according to claim 45, wherein the improvement further comprises administering an effective dose of the agent [carboxymethylated reduced dextran iron formulation] to obtain an MRI, [is] followed within a single clinical visit by administering a further effective dose, to obtain a further MRI.